WTCI-597-P

THE PORT AUTHORITY OF NY & NJ

One World Trade Center
New York, N.Y. 10048

Peter C. Goldmark, Jr.
Executive Director

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December 14, 1979

Mr. Meyer S. Frucher
Director of the Office of Employee Relations
State of New York
Agency #2 Building
12th Floor
Empire State Plaza
Albany, New York 12224

Dear Mr. Frucher:

We are in receipt of Mr. DelGiudice's memorandum of November 19, 1979 regarding an expanded study of possible exposure to asbestos by New York State employees.

The Port Authority has been concerned for some time with the problems that may be created by occupational exposure to this material. We discontinued its use as a building material at an early stage of World Trade Center construction. We monitor employee and public areas throughout our facilities to assure that the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health Air-borne Standard for time weighted exposure to asbestos is not exceeded. Periodic inspections of asbestos installations in Port Authority facilities are made to assure that they remain intact and that prompt remedial action is instituted to correct any failures. Our occupational medical programs are particularly alert to any such health problems in our employee population.

We would appreciate being informed of your efforts and findings in this study. Mr. C. Vasquez, Manager of the Port Authority's Risk Management Division, is responsible for our agency's environmental programs. Should you require any information concerning the Port Authority's present or planned programs, Mr. Vasquez may be reached at (201) 963-7191, or by mail at One PATH Plaza, Jersey City, New Jersey 07306.

Sincerely,

Peter C. Goldmark, Jr.
Executive Director

PLAINTIFF'S EXHIBIT PX-644

PCG:CMW:mr

cc: M. DelGiudice
bcc: R. F. Bennett, P. J. Falvey, S. Frigand, J. Green, K. MacKay, J. B. McAvey, R. M. Monti, P. Rooney, B. Schuman, H. Sherman, C. Vasquez, C. M. Wahlberg
CLEARED BY: J. Kennelly, Public Affairs Dept.
A. Lacis, Medical Department
P. Rooney, Law Department

EXECUTIVE CHAMBER

MEMORANDUM

November 19, 1979

To: All Department and Agency Heads

From: Michael J. DelGiudice

Subject: Asbestosis Study of State Employees

Recent studies carried out on a small group of State Employees engaged in occupations which could have resulted in exposure to asbestos have prompted the State to expand its evaluation to include employees of other State agencies employed in similar occupational settings.

Details of the plan are being worked out by an interagency task force headed by the Governor's Office of Employee Relations and consisting of the Departments of Health and Civil Service and the Office of General Services. In the interim, State agencies should immediately:

1. Designate a high level liaison person in your agency to work with the task force. A meeting of the task force with agency representatives will be scheduled soon to provide the necessary informational materials and brief agency representatives as to what needs to be done.

2. Identify employees in your agency currently working in power plant settings or maintenance areas where they may have been exposed to asbestos as well as current employees who had formerly worked in these occupations. The areas of employment would include occupations involving: a) shipyard work; b) insulation for heat; c) brake linings; d) electric wire insulation; e) pipe fittings; f) furnace fittings; g) asbestos textiles; h) vinyl asbestos tile; i) air filtration; j) paint filler; k) shingles (roof); l) pump packing; and m) fire proofing.

3. Assist the task force in administering detailed health, occupational, and family history questionnaires to the employees. The agency liaison will be asked to meet with task force members in the near future to discuss the procedures to be followed in terms of obtaining completed questionnaires for all those identified and ensuring the confidentiality of the information compiled.

4. Identify for the task force the location and availability of State-owned or leased X-ray equipment and appropriate staff which could be used to assist in the chest X-ray screening program and promptly provide Dr. Victoria Smith, Director, Employee Health Service, New York State Civil Service Department, with this information.

5. Undertake a systematic inspection of all premises occupied by your employees or clients to identify areas in which there is a potential for asbestos exposure as a result of flaking insulation on pipes and boilers and flaking paint on ceilings and walls. You should first review all contruction and maintenance records to determine where and when asbestos was used and proceed with the inspection. Attached, for your information, is a document on asbestos sent to all schools in the State last April.

Please provide Meyer S. Frucher, Director of the Office of Employee Relations, with the name of your agency liaison person. Your cooperation and prompt response to this undertaking are essential.